

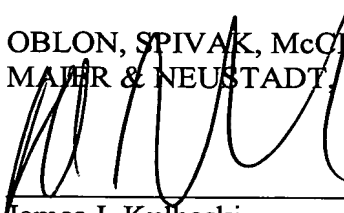
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of an interview extended by Examiner Gleitz to Applicants' attorney James Kulbaski, and patent engineers from the Assignee, Tadashi Hayakawa and Atsushi Onogi. During the interview, prior art toner containers Katun Type 450 and Ricoh Type 450 were shown and prior art patent nos. 6,118,951, 5,627,631, and 6,104,902 were discussed. Examiner Gleitz indicated that it was his belief that the amended form of all of the claims except for claims 27 and 28 were allowable. With respect to claims 27 and 28, Examiner Gleitz indicated that the proposed amendments to these claims overcame the 102 anticipation rejection, but further consideration and searching was necessary before the claims would be allowed. Consequently, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 using Kato should be withdrawn. Examiner Gleitz further indicated that because the application was under a final rejection, the amendments to claims 27 and 28 would not be entered and therefore, Applicants file herewith an RCE.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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